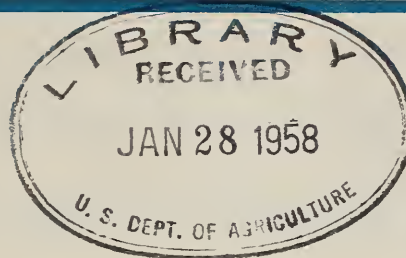


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

H-275.28
F22
copy 2

Farm and Home Development *Highlights*



No. 1 -- June, 1957

By Way of Introduction: This is the first in a series of newsletters to be prepared periodically by the Federal Extension Service Farm and Home Development task force. State Extension Directors have indicated they would welcome an exchange of information on effective Farm and Home Development methods, organization, training, and evaluation; significant developments; new program and training materials; and Farm and Home Development progress and problems by way of a newsletter. We solicit your ideas, suggestions, and reports of State developments and activities of interest to others. And we trust the newsletter will help all of us to appraise our Farm and Home Development efforts from time to time to see how we can most effectively use this method to the betterment of farm families and extension workers: Farm and Home Development task force: Otto C. Croy, chairman, E. W. Aiton, J. W. Banning, S. Brown, E. P. Callahan, J. B. Claar, L. V. Cowden, J. E. Crosby, V. D. Gilman, E. Heywood, S. M. Hunter, M. C. Kennington, J. L. Matthews, E. J. Niederfrank, J. R. Paulling, B. M. Phifer, C. A. Sheffield, P. H. Stone, H. D. Turner, L. M. Vaughan.

What the 1956 Statistical Reports Show: Enclosed with this first issue of the newsletter is a breakdown of answers to questions asked in the Farm and Home Development section of ES 21. Also enclosed is a sheet showing national and regional data in relation to total number of families worked with in 1956, percent of counties doing Farm and Home Development work that reported each item, and the number of families assisted per county reporting. There is much food for thought in the report summary. It indicates methods being used by agents, the direction the work is going, and some accomplishments to date. The summary also points up the continual problem of achieving uniform interpretation by agents of report questions. We welcome any suggestions you have in this regard and would like to learn of efforts that are being made to obtain more accurate reports of Farm and Home Development work.

Federal Extension Service -- U. S. Department of Agriculture

IP-87 (6-57)

1956 Report Highlights

1. Farm and Home Development work was reported by:

- 75 percent of all counties in the United States.
- 10 percent more counties than in 1955.

2. Some 23,610 families started Farm and Home Development work in 1956. This is:

- 19 percent fewer families than started during 1955, the first full year of nationwide Farm and Home Development emphasis. This may be due, in part, to the desire of agents to complete work with families started earlier before taking on additional work.
- 11.4 families per county reporting.
- 42.2 percent of all families worked with during 1956.

29 States reported FEWER families started in 1956 than in 1955.

21 States reported MORE families started in 1956 than in 1955.

1 State reported no difference in number of families started.

One out of every 8 counties, or 13 percent, doing Farm and Home Development work in 1956 didn't start any new families during the year.

3. Some 56,000 families were doing Farm and Home Development work in 1956. This is:

- 20 percent MORE families than in 1955
- an average of 23.6 families per county

Of this number...one-fifth were "new" to Extension
one-seventh were just getting started
in farming
one-sixth were part-time farmers
one-third had gross incomes falling in
the lower third for their county

6 States reported working with FEWER families in 1956 than in 1955.

44 States reported working with MORE families in 1956 than in 1955.

1 State reported no difference in the number of families worked with.

4. Use of County Advisory Committees:

- One-half of the counties reporting used regular extension committees
- One-sixth of the counties reporting used separate advisory committees
- One-third of the counties reporting used no committees to give guidance to Farm and Home Development work

5. Methods Used by Agents in Working With Families:

More than half (56.7 percent) of all families worked with during the year received Farm and Home Development assistance on an individual basis only. This approach was used by agents in 84.1 percent of the counties doing Farm and Home Development work in 1956. Agents in these counties worked with an average of 14.3 families during the year.

More than one-third (34.5 percent) of all families worked with during 1956 received both individual and group assistance. This combination of methods was used in 44 percent of the counties reporting and with an average of 16.7 families per county.

Group assistance accounted for only 8.8 percent of all Farm and Home Development families worked with last year. This method was used in 14.5 percent of the counties. Agents in these counties worked with an average of 12.9 families in 1956. Some counties used more than one approach. This accounts for the percentage of counties being greater than 100 percent.

6. Types of Assistance Given:

Considerably more emphasis was given by agents to helping families solve farm problems than was given to helping them solve home problems in 1956. Some 69 percent of all cooperating families were assisted in analyzing and solving farm problems while only 47.4 percent received similar assistance with home problems. This may be due to several reasons, including the desire by families to first work on problems of which they are more conscious, a feeling by agents of greater competence in counseling with families on farm problems than on home problems, or failure on the part of agents to recognize that there are many problems in home management that should be considered at the same time farm problems are considered. A greater amount of fixed commitments by home agents than by men agents on established activities probably also influenced the type of assistance given to families.

The types of assistance given to cooperating families are listed in the following table. Column 1 shows the percent of all families receiving each type of assistance given. Column 2 shows the percentage of counties reporting such assistance. And column 3 lists the number of families assisted for each county reporting.

Type of assistance	Percent of all F & H families worked with	Percent of counties doing F & H unit work	Families assisted per county reporting
Analyzing present farming problems.	69.0	94.8	17.2
Analyzing present resources .	61.0	90.1	16.0
Learning to solve problems or make decisions	59.4	81.7	17.2
Determining short-time goals.	57.1	84.9	15.9
Determining long-time goals .	51.4	88.6	13.7
Analyzing present home problems.	47.4	84.5	13.2
Determining the progress they have made to date	45.1	76.4	13.9
Reviewing and revising plans	39.2	73.4	12.6
Developing a written plan . .	38.8	74.0	12.4

7. Support of Farm and Home Development by 4-H Club Projects:

Slightly over one-fourth of cooperating families have children whose 4-H projects supported the family's farm and home plan last year. Since the report does not show how many families had children of 4-H age there is now way of determining the amount of progress that can be made in this direction. There is, however, considerable variation among the four regions of the country which suggests it is an area of work with much potential for development.

Farm-Home Planning Association: In Deuel County, South Dakota, county agent Bob Pylman has formed a County Farm and Home Planning Association through a joint agreement by the county, the Extension Service, and TVA. A seven-man board of directors, jointly with Extension, employs an associate agent.

Forty-five farm families pay a fee of \$100 per year for farm and home planning assistance as a partial cost of the association. Cooperating families also participate in the TVA program. Complete farm and home plans will be developed by each family with Extension assistance. Farm record books will be kept and a business analysis prepared to help guide families in planning and making changes.

Wisconsin Workshop Centers on 7 Problem Areas: A recent Farm and Home Development workshop conducted by the Wisconsin Extension Service for 40 of its agents was devoted to finding solutions to 7 areas of concern to agents. These areas are:

1. What is a good county enrollment of families?
2. How the Farm and Home Development agent fits into the county staff and into the overall extension program?
3. The development of farm and home plans.
4. Step by step procedures for working with families on an individual basis.
5. The use of the group teaching approach.
6. Farm and home records.
7. Reports and publicity--measuring and reporting results of what you have accomplished.

Each work group made recommendations for improvement in these 7 areas. These are now being assembled into an overall report by G. F. Baumeister, District Extension Leader, who was in charge of the workshop. Although he hasn't said so, we imagine Mr. Baumeister will be glad to share copies of the report with those of you who are interested in studying it.

Other Farm and Home Development Courses: In addition to the Wisconsin workshop mentioned above, other Farm and Home Development courses and workshops are being offered at four of the five regional summer schools and by Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas for their agents this spring and summer. Mississippi is conducting a three-week workshop for select county workers this month, and Arkansas is offering Farm and Home Development courses for county workers during its inservice training school for all agents the week of June 10. Tennessee has scheduled a 10-day course for county workers in late July and early August. Regional summer schools offering Farm and Home Development courses are:

- Colorado -- Individual Farm and Home Development -- June 17 to July 5
- Wisconsin -- Farm and Home Development -- June 10 to 29
- Prairie View -- Farm and Home Development -- June 10 to 29
- Cornell -- Farm-Family Business Planning -- July 1 to 19

Five members of our staff, E. P. Callahan, Jack Claar, J. E. Crosby, J. R. Paulling, and Bryan Phifer will help conduct four of these schools and workshops.

Extension People Look at Financial Management: In an article of this title in the February issue of the Agricultural Finance Review, Lawrence A. Jones of the Agricultural Research Service summarizes the thinking of extension workers who participated in the financial workshop conducted by the University of Tennessee last year. In the opinion of the workshop group, several key requirements usually must be fulfilled before farm families can become good financial managers. The three uppermost in the minds of extension workers were:

1. Motivation of the farm family--Many farm families are not naturally systematic and find planning difficult. They do not see that putting time and effort into planning is important...often essential...in achieving family goals. These families can usually be motivated to do family planning if they can be shown it's of value, not unduly difficult, and how to do it.
2. Adequate information on which to base financial decisions--Management of the farm-family business is surrounded by many uncertainties. In most cases, wise decisions depend upon obtaining the right information, correctly interpreting and acting upon it. Extension workers must not only be able to provide factual information and help farm families interpret it correctly but also know the sources for information which they cannot provide.
3. An understanding of the managing and planning process.-- It is the management process that brings to fruition information and procedures that relate to financial management. Without understanding of the planning and managing processes sound farm and home decisions, which are the prerequisites of good financial management, are not likely to occur.

Progress Report on Kellogg Projects: Here's a brief progress report on the Kellogg financed Farm and Home Development evaluation studies underway in New York, North Carolina, Washington, and Iowa. New York has completed a benchmark study with 250 Farm and Home Development families and a control group of 150 non-FHD families. A survey is also underway in the 10 counties from which Farm and Home Development families were selected to determine (1) agents' concepts of Farm and Home Development, (2) relationship of home agents' and 4-H Club agents' work to Farm and Home Development, (3) methods and procedures being used with cooperating families, and (4) major problems being met and types of assistance needed by families.

North Carolina has analyzed preliminary benchmark data on the characteristics of families in control and experimental groups, and is conducting an agent survey similar to the one in New York.

Washington has developed a rural attitude profile for comparing Farm and Home Development families with non-FHD families. Work is underway to ascertain whether families having no contact or low contact with Extension have distinctive characteristics of any kind. Knowledge of this would serve as a basis for developing different approaches with these families than those used with families having a high degree of contact with Extension.

Iowa is analyzing benchmark data from 442 farm families. Data from the survey is incorporated in a Master's thesis by Eva Ernst entitled "Factors Related to Family Goals Specified by Farm Operators and Homemakers."

Some of the findings from the Washington study, and from a study being made in Wisconsin, will be published soon.

New Materials: Among the new Farm and Home Development materials that have come to our attention recently are newsletters prepared for county workers in Michigan and Arkansas. The Michigan newsletter is prepared by Leonard Kyle, extension economist, and the Arkansas newsletter is prepared by the staff of area FHD specialists. We imagine you could obtain copies of these two newsletters by writing to Michigan and Arkansas.

During the past 1½ years, Missouri has revised most all of its Balanced Farming forms. A new Balanced Farming Handbook containing more up-to-date and complete reference data is now in use, and the old Balanced Farming Workbook has been eliminated.

Separate worksheet and map forms now take the place of the Workbook. A red folder, BF 5515, is used by families for assembling forms and materials relating to their farm and home. Some advantages of the loose-leaf system of developing plans, over the use of the Workbook are listed by Missouri as follows:

1. It is more adaptable since each family may use the work forms suited to their particular situation.
2. The family may assemble plans in the red folder as they are developed over a period of time.
3. The separate work forms are better adapted for working with groups.
4. It simplifies the process of keeping records and files on cooperating families since only the basic parts of a family's plan are now filed in county offices.

